



PATENT
Attorney Docket No. 018880.0147

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re Patent Application of:)
J. Donald HILL et al.) Examiner Not yet assigned
Application Number: 10/715,441) Group Art Unit Not yet assigned
Filed: November 19, 2003)
For: CONDUIT COUPLING DEVICE AND)
METHODS FOR EMPLOYING SUCH)
DEVICES)

INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT

Commissioner of Patents
U.S. Patent and Trademark Office
Washington, D.C. 20231

Sir:

In accordance with 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.97 and 1.98, and in compliance with the duty of disclosure set forth in 37 C.F.R. § 1.56, Applicants are submitting herewith copies of the references listed on the attached Form PTO-1449 (modified) for consideration and to be made of record by the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office (PTO) in the above-captioned patent application.

The attached documents were cited by the European Patent Office in the International Search Report dated March 22, 2004 of a counterpart application and relevance is indicated on the enclosed copy of the Search Report.

Applicants respectfully request that the Examiner consider these references and that the Examiner indicate that the enclosed references have been considered in this application by returning a copy of the form PTO-1449 with the Examiner's initials in the left column per MPEP 609.

In accordance with 37 C.F.R. § 1.97(b), Applicants believe that this Information Disclosure Statement is submitted prior to issuance of a first Office Action on the merits.

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Therefore, no fees are believed due as a result of this submission. However, in the event of any variance between the fees determined by Applicant and those determined by the PTO, please charge any such variance to undersigned's Deposit Account No. 02-0375.

Respectfully submitted,

BAKER BOTTS L.L.P.

By

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Enclosures

FORM PTO-1449 (Modified) (REV. 7-80)		U.S. DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE							ATTY. DOCKET NO.		APPLICATION NO.				
									018880.0147		10/715,441				
									APPLICANT						
									J. Donald Hill <u>et al.</u>						
									FILING DATE		GROUP				
									November 19, 2003		To be assigned				
U.S. PATENT DOCUMENTS															
*EXAMINER INITIAL		DOCUMENT NUMBER							DATE	NAME		CLASS	SUBCLASS	FILING DATE IF APPROPRIATE	
		0	0	5	8	9	5	7	5/16/02	Farascioni					
		0	0	9	1	3	0	0	7/11/02	Peng <u>et al.</u>					
		4	5	7	3	4	5	2	3/4/86	Greenberg					
		4	8	1	7	5	8	7	4/4/89	Janese					
		6	1	4	2	9	3	5	11/7/00	Flom <u>et al.</u>					
		6	1	9	0	3	1	1	2/20/01	Glines <u>et al.</u>					
FOREIGN PATENT DOCUMENTS															
		DOCUMENT NUMBER							DATE	COUNTRY		CLASS	SUBCLASS	TRANSLATION	
		WO	01	7	8	8	0	1	10/25/01	Europe				<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> YES	<input type="checkbox"/> NO
		WO	00	2	4	3	3	9	5/4/00	Europe				<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> YES	<input type="checkbox"/> NO
		WO	98	4	0	0	3	6	9/17/98	Europe				<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> YES	<input type="checkbox"/> NO
		WO	01	4	1	6	5	3	6/14/01	Europe				<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> YES	<input type="checkbox"/> NO
		WO	00	7	2	7	6	4	12/7/00	Europe				<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> YES	<input type="checkbox"/> NO
		WO	02	0	5	8	5	91	8/1/02	Europe				<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> YES	<input type="checkbox"/> NO
		WO	01	4	1	6	3	3	6/14/01	Europe				<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> YES	<input type="checkbox"/> NO
OTHER DOCUMENTS (Including Author, Title, Date, Pertinent Pages, etc.)															
		International Search Report, dated March 22, 2004													
EXAMINER										DATE CONSIDERED					
*EXAMINER: Initial if reference considered, whether or not citation is in conformance with MPEP 609; Draw line through citation if not in conformance and not considered. Include a copy of this form with next communication to applicant.															

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